

# Medicine Bow Landscape Vegetation Analysis (LaVA)

## Meeting Minutes

Cooperating Agency Meeting  
November 14, 2018; 0900 – 1200  
In person or Telephone

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Melissa Martin	Melissa Mokry	Russ Bacon
Travis Pardue	Dave Gloss	Karen Schroyer
Frank Romero	Jason Armbruster	Jerod Delay
Aaron Lumley	Embere Hall	Beth Calloway
Leanne Correll	Derek Milner	Mark Conrad
Brooke Owens	Casey Campbell	

### ACTION ITEMS:

- **Final Drafts:**
  - **Analysis Assumptions:** Display 7- and 15-year wildfire and soil burn severity information in assumption; indicate 7-year trend represents best projection of future conditions; and a graph showing the trends in acres burned per year. Include all fires on the forest, regardless of where the fire started. **Jerod/Dave**
  - **Reanalysis Memo:** Forest Service resource specialist assignments are due December 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **DTT/ECA/Stream Health Small Group:** Bolster language in ECA row to emphasize ECA model as guide. **Jason/Dave**
- **Final EIS Chapter Reviews:** Melissa will be sending out FEIS chapters for review as they are completed. Below is an anticipated timeline:
  - **Chapter 1:** This was sent out for review on Wednesday, November 21; **comments due November 30<sup>th</sup>.**
  - **Chapter 2:** This will be sent out on Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>; **comments due December 7<sup>th</sup>.**
  - **Chapters 3 / 4:** *I am shooting for December 14<sup>th</sup>, with comments due no later than December 21<sup>st</sup>. **This does not allow a lot of time for review, so please be prepared.***
- **Response to Comments:** Melissa has established a Small Group meeting on **December 12<sup>th</sup>** from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Forest Supervisor's office in Laramie. The Small Group will meet to brainstorm responses to comments identified as 'IDT Group Response.' This Group consists of Melissa Martin, Jason Armbruster, Jerod Delay, Josh Peck, Leanne Correll, and Melissa Mokry
- **Next Meeting:** December 19<sup>th</sup>. Agenda and length of meeting to be decided closer to the 19<sup>th</sup>.

### AGENDA TOPICS

#### 1) Forest Supervisor Time

##### OVERVIEW

Russ appreciates everyone's continued involvement with the LaVA project and is impressed with the recent progress that has been made. Russ provided cheese boards with the LaVA logo to attendees as a token of appreciation to the internal and external LaVA team. Welcome to Melissa Mokry from

Wyoming State Forestry, taking over for Carson Engelskirger. Cooperators are hearing questions and excitement about the project.

## **2) Final Drafts for FEIS**

### **OVERVIEW**

Melissa Martin gave an overview of the changes that have been made to the No Action Alternative, Cumulative Effects, Monitoring Plan, Decision Trigger Table, Analysis Assumptions, Chapter 1, Response to Comments, and the reanalysis memo. All of these documents have been uploaded to the external Pinyon site. A few minor suggestions were made to improve the aforementioned documents which have already been incorporated into FEIS draft chapters. Wildfire and soil burn severity numbers will show acreage from the past 15 years, regardless of where the fire started. A graph will be built to show the trend in acreage over the years.

## **3) Analysis Changes**

### **OVERVIEW**

Melissa gave an overview of changes to the modified proposed action: 1) Sheep Mountain will no longer allow for commercial activity; and 2) Wildlife Security Areas within IRAs will be removed from the timber emphasis TOA and added to the 'other management area emphasis' TOA. In that regard, the primary management objective would be for wildlife habitat improvement and not timber. Both changes demonstrate responsiveness to public comments.

## **4) Decision Trigger Table/ECA/Stream Health - Small Group Work**

### **OVERVIEW**

Jason Armbruster and Dave Gloss gave an overview of the new Decision Trigger Table row information for stream health.

- The scale for evaluating ECA has been changed from 6<sup>th</sup> level HUC (appropriate scale for planning purposes) to 7<sup>th</sup> level HUC, to be more appropriate for implementation.
- Rather than a 25% cap in the DEIS, the new ECA row outlines Yellow Light Triggers at 20% ECA for streams with known stream health concerns, as outlined in the white paper.
- For streams that haven't been identified as having concerns, the Yellow Light Trigger will be 25% ECA.
- Adaptive management actions from the trigger will have the options of field validating the ECA results, and adjusting the ECA model per on-the-ground conditions, and rerunning the numbers.
- If the adjusted model still shows ECA at Yellow Light Trigger level, determine if the project can be adjusted to avoid the triggers.
- If this is not a possibility, a stream health assessment can be conducted for the watershed.
- If the stream health assessment results in a "Low" probability of resulting in long term change to a lower stream health class, apply standard site-specific BMPs.
- If the stream health assessment results in a "Moderate" or "High" probability, the assessment will trigger the Red Light Trigger.
- "Moderate" and "High" will have varying adaptive management options, from a collaborative effort to modify and mitigate the effects of the treatment, to No Treatment in "High" probability streams.
- Verbiage will be bolstered to emphasize that ECA will be used as a guide to trigger more extensive analysis, and is not a direct indicator of stream health.

These changes should allow for flexibility, as well as address comments and concerns. A white paper will be attached in the appendix for further explanation. The full row and white paper are available on the External Pinyon site.

Suggestions made by Cooperators in advance of and during the November 14 meeting have included in a November 14<sup>th</sup> version of the white paper supporting the row information and in the addition of new footnotes and other minor changes.

## **5) Project Timeline Update**

### **OVERVIEW**

**November 13:** 'Draft to Final' Memo to IDT

**December 7:** IDT Reanalysis and edits to FEIS due

**January 11:** Camera-ready FEIS; draft Record of Decision

**January 18:** Federal Register publication; objection period starts

**February 19:** Objection period ends

**March 21:** Objection Resolution

**March/April 2019:** Signed ROD; Project Implementation

## **6) Wrap Up**

### **OVERVIEW**

December 19<sup>th</sup> will be the next Cooperator's meeting. Agenda and length of meeting will be decided as the time approaches. The reanalysis, edited chapters and some response to comments should be on the agenda. Updated sections will be uploaded to the external Pinyon site. If anyone needs access to the Pinyon site, please email Melissa.

Melissa was interviewed by the Washington Post about the LaVA project. They have also reached out to a few Cooperators. They will let her know when it will be published.

**Meeting adjourned.**